

**ISS 01**

## **The Critical Role of Accurate Vaginitis and STI Diagnosis: Addressing Women's Health Through Molecular Diagnostics**



**Monday, July 28, 2025**



**7:15 AM - 8:15 AM**



**Room 210 E**

### **Overview**

Vaginitis affects millions of women annually, increasing their risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Overlapping symptoms and co-infections make clinical diagnosis a challenge, which is why accurate clinical diagnosis of vaginitis and STIs is essential to improving patient care and ensuring proper treatment. Join this discussion with Dr. Damon Getman and Dr. Marthe Charles to examine study data on STI prevalence among women with symptoms of vaginitis, the role of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) in detecting vaginitis and STI co-infections, review the impacts of misdiagnosis and explore the importance of integrating molecular diagnostics into laboratory workflows to ensure precise detection for vaginitis and STI co-infections.

## Speakers



### **Dr. Marthe Charles, MD**

Head of Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention and Control, Vancouver Coastal Health

Dr. Marthe Charles is the division head of Medical Microbiology and Infection Prevention and Control at Vancouver Coastal Health and a clinical associate professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology, a master's degree in microbiology and a medical degree from Université de Montreal before completing her residency at the University of Alberta. Her research is focused on molecular diagnostic and infection control.



### **Dr. Damon Getman, PhD**

Scientific Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Hologic

Dr. Damon Getman received his bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science at Humboldt State University, followed by a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of California, Davis, and postdoctoral fellowship training at UC San Diego and the Salk Institute. He joined Hologic in 1999 and as Senior Principal Scientist and Director of Assay Development was involved in developing the Aptima family of diagnostic tests. He is now Scientific Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs for Hologic. Dr. Getman has served on Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guideline committees for Molecular Diagnostics and Nucleic Acid Sequencing, is an inventor on 30 U.S. patents, and has authored over 120 peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations. He currently teaches a course on In Vitro Diagnostic device product development at the University of California, San Diego.

## Moderator



### **Dr. Janet Wilson**

Consultant in Sexual Health & HIV

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

Immediate Past President, IUSTI (2021–2023)

Dr Janet Wilson is a physician specialising in STIs at Leeds, UK. Her clinical and research interests are managing recurrent vaginal infections and infections in pregnancy and the application and cost-effectiveness of diagnostic tests for chlamydia and gonorrhoea.